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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,792	07/13/2001	Hao-Chih Chen	B-4238 618932-3	4932
36716	7590	04/18/2006	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY 5670 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 2100 LOS ANGELES, CA 90036-5679			NGUYEN, DUNG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2871	

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,792

Applicant(s)

CHEN, HAO-CHIH

me

Examiner

Dung Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 9-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 12 and 13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1, 2, 7, 9-11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/30/2006 has been entered.

Applicant's amendment dated 01/30/2006 has been received and entered. By the amendment, claims 1-13 and newly added claim 14 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-2, 7, 9-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art (APA), figure 1B, in view of Won, US Patent No. 6,046,785 or Kubo et al., JP 10-161114.

Regarding the above claims, APA, figures 1B, discloses a backlight unit for a liquid crystal display comprising:

a light guide (40) having first and second coupling lateral sides (42 left and 42 right) perpendicular to a light emitting surface of the light guide;

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a diffusing means (52) corresponding (right over) to the light emitting surface;
a reflector (30) having first and second holders (32left, not shown, and 32right) with first and second linking member(35)
a light source (34)
a reflecting sheet (20)
a protecting film (56).

APA, however, does not explicitly disclose the first and the second coupling members being directly combined with the first and second linking members. Won does disclose a structure of a light guide to a frame that a coupling member (e.g. groove 110) directly connects with a linking member (e.g., protrusion 310). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the APA's coupling member being directly connected to the linking member as shown by Won in order to prevent cracking and breaking of light guide from a frame (col. 2, ln 1-5).

Kubo et al. also teach the same feature of a light transmission plate and a light source (i.e., reflector) to prevent mechanical shock to the device. In other words, Kubo et al. is evidence that ordinary skill in the art would have found the reason, suggestion and motivation to directly combine coupling and linking member for preventing mechanical shock to a device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify APA coupling member directly connects with a linking member in order to prevent mechanical shock to a display device.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 12-13 are allowed.
4. Claims 3-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims as stated in the final office action.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 01/30/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's arguments are that Won fails to teach a coupling member being directly connected to a linking member since Won's protrusion are on the frame (not a reflector) (amendment, page 8). The Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's viewpoint since the combination of APA and Won would take an advantage of a connection to a linking member from a coupling member while APA does disclose a coupling member is a part of the reflector. In other words, such combination would have a coupling member which is directly connected to the linking member as claimed as well.

Applicant also contend that neither APA nor Won disclose a diffusing means corresponding to the light emitting surface (amendment, bridging paragraph from page 8 to 9). It should be noted that the APA, figure 1B do show a diffusing plate formed right over the light emitting surface of the light guide as stated above.

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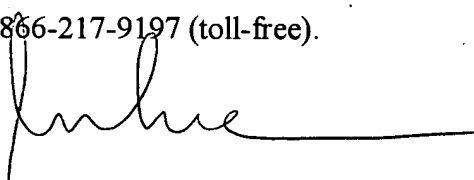
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-2297. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 571-272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DN
04/17/2006



***Dung Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2871***